

Programmatic Permit Guidance

Bridge Maintenance Washing and Cleaning

General HPA GH-D9448-01, Appendix B

General NPDES WA-0039039, Section S1.A

This guidance will help you interpret and understand the roles and responsibilities for complying with programmatic permits and exemptions for **maintenance bridge washing and cleaning**. You must read the permits prior to conducting work. Only familiarity with the permits will ensure your activities maintain compliance. The permits and other referenced documents are available for download at WSDOT's programmatic permit website <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/Programmatics/default.htm>.

Programmatic permits and exemptions

- General Hydraulic Project Approval GH-D9448-01, Appendix B
- General NPDES WA-0039039, Section S1.A

Work covered:

Appendix B and Section S1.A allow routine bridge cleaning and washing with low pressures (relative to paint-prep washing). Wash water can be discharged to state waters without a filter if dry cleaning is done before washing.

Work not covered:

Appendix B and S1.A do not allow high-pressure paint-prep washing (covered in appendix C), work below the Ordinary High Water Line (OHWL), or work that affects the bed of state waters.

When and how often work is allowed:

The bed of the water body must be covered with water (under the part of the structure to be washed). Also, work is limited to the following time periods: November 1 to May 31 (West of the Cascades) and December 1 to June 30 (East of the Cascades). There are no restrictions as to how often work can be conducted, so long as the 3-day pre-project notification requirement is met. However, maintenance washing is generally scheduled in advance and occurs no more than once per year.

Work restrictions:

Appendix B and S1.A specify restrictions and required practices that minimize pollutants entering the water and the disturbance of vegetation. Notable requirements include the following:

- Dry clean (scrape, sweep, or vacuum) before washing. This includes flaking paint. Residual grease must be removed with degreaser on absorbent-material.
- Use the minimum pressure that will clean the bridge and prevent paint chips from entering state waters. That is, avoid flaking paint and lower the pressure if needed to prevent the removal of bonded paint. The equipment that WSDOT typically uses, such as hoses attached to water trucks, mains and hydrants, do not carry pressures capable of removing bonded paint.

Permit questions?

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Permit Program Manager
WSDOT, Environmental Services Office

(360) 705-7487

Reporting requirements:

Complete and accurate reporting of all work covered by this permit is a legal requirement.

Pre-project reporting/notification – The WDFW Regional Habitat Program Manager (RHPM) and Ecology Regional WQ program must be notified at least three days before starting work, by letter or fax. The RHPM contact list is available at the programmatic permit website (click on the *documents referenced in permits* quick link). Information that must be included in the notification is found in appendix B and section S3.A of the permits.

Reporting a project Maintenance crews fill out the ESA compliance forms on the PDA or the computer. Contact your Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinator (see list next page) for assistance. When reporting, maintenance staff can recommend improvements to BMPs and mitigation: This is the best way to rid our toolbox of BMPs that do not work and add BMPs that work better.

Non-maintenance projects covered by this permit must submit a Programmatic Permit Reporting Form (form and directions available at the programmatic permit website).

When to report Annual project reports are submitted to WDFW and Ecology by January 31 through Environmental Services Office (ESO). In order to meet this deadline, project reports must be completed by January 10. Appendix B and S3.B, specify the required information. ESO will submit a report even if no work was done.

Emergency reporting

Distressed or dead fish and water quality problems must be reported to the RMEC and regional WDFW and Ecology offices below.

Ecology Regional Contact Information:

Southwest Region P.O. Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504-7775 Fax # 360-407-6305 Deborah Cornett - supervisor for water quality inspectors/construction dcorn461@ecy.wa.gov 360-407-7269 Margaret Hill - water quality inspector mhill461@ecy.wa.gov 360-407-0246 Janet Boyd - water quality inspector jboy461@ecy.wa.gov 360-407-0245 Betsy Dickes - water quality inspector bedi461@ecy.wa.gov 360-407-6283 Rusty Post - water quality inspector (Vancouver field office) rpos461@ecy.wa.gov 360-690-4787	Northwest Region 3190 160th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 9808-5452 Fax # 425-649-7098 Don Seeberger - Unit Supervisor for the Water Quality Inspectors/Construction dsee461@ecy.wa.gov 425-649-4424 John Drabek - supervisor for the water quality inspectors/industrial unit Note - John's group works pretty closely with Don's group - some overlap so John is listed more of a backup but should be included in all e-mail notifications. jdra461@ecy.wa.gov 425-649-7293
Central Region 15 West Yakima Ave Suite 200 Yakima, WA 98902-3452 Fax # 509-575-2809 Jeff Lewis - supervisor for water quality inspectors jlew461@ecy.wa.gov 509-454-7207 Ray Latham - water quality inspector rlat461@ecy.wa.gov 509-575-2807 Terry Whittmeier twit461@ecy.wa.gov 509-574-3991	Eastern Region N 4601 Monroe Spokane, WA 99205-1295 Fax # 509-329-3570 Lenox Bramble (called Len) - supervisor for water quality permit writers lbra461@ecy.wa.gov 509-329-3504 Mike Hepp - water quality inspector mhep461@ecy.wa.gov 509-329-3536

Department of Fish and Wildlife Contact Information:

Region 1 – Spokane: 509-456-4082	Region 4 – Mill Creek: 425-775-1311
Region 2 - Ephrata: 509-754-4624	Region 5 – Vancouver: 360-906-6700
Region 3 – Yakima: 509-575-2740	Region 6 – Montesano: 360-249-4628

WSDOT, Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinators:

NCR—Joe Williams: 509-667-3054	SCR—Mark Reynolds 509-577-1755
SWR—Candace Jochim: 360-905-2173	ER —Erv Koller: 509-324-6133
NWR—Mark Cornwall: 206-440-4523	OR —Ken Schlatter: 360-570-6707



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